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BRYAN AND WILSON.

The most troublesome personal problem which President-elect Wilson now faces is the determination of his future relations with Mr. Bryan. The Nebraska statesman made Mr. Wilson's nomination at Baltimore possible and thus created an apparently formidable claim on the new President's gratitude. Yet it must be remembered that Mr. Bryan was playing his own game at Baltimore and that the transfer of his support from Clark to Wilson at the psychological moment was only a part of that game. Mr. Wilson profited by the shift merely because he happened to be the most available candidate with whom to defeat the sinister forces supposed to be aligning themselves behind the Speaker. The President-elect owes something to Mr. Bryan for the latter's timely assistance, but he owes more to the Democratic voters who elected him and who expect him to use his best judgment in planning for a successful administration. If Mr. Bryan's entry into the Cabinet does not fit into those plans Mr. Wilson will probably be pardoned for exhibiting a natural amount of "ingratitude."

Moreover, even were the President-elect inclined to ask Mr. Bryan to serve under him, an embarrassing issue would be raised at the very outset. The Nebraska leader cannot well afford to accept a Cabinet post unless it is made clear in advance that Mr. Wilson will not seek a renomination. The Democratic national platform, written under Mr. Bryan's direction, pledged the nominee of 1912 to the principle of a single term. Throughout the campaign Mr. Wilson carefully avoided acknowledging the validity or even the existence of that pledge, in spite of Mr. Bryan's repeated efforts to force him into the open. Unless there is a definite understanding that the incoming President will live up to the spirit and letter of the Baltimore single-term declaration it would be political folly on Mr. Bryan's part to accept a place in the Cabinet. If the no-second-term principle is to be honored in the observance the Nebraska might hope as a Cabinet officer to be the inheritor of the Wilson influence. If it is to be honored in the breach, Mr. Bryan's only logical position is to appeal to the promise of the platform and seek the nomination himself from the outside.

Few political leaders of the first class now accept Cabinet appointments. The President has become the overshadowing figure in every administration and the stature of Cabinet officers as party leaders has greatly diminished. Except as the predestined legate of the Wilson administration Mr. Bryan would, therefore, have little to gain and much to lose by becoming Secretary of State or Secretary of the Treasury after March 4.

"A SENSITIVE YOUNG MAN."

Mayor Gaynor has another "sensitive young man" on his staff besides Police Commissioner Waldo—to wit, Corporation Counsel Watson. Mr. Watson is shocked because, after his assistant had sneeringly implied that all of the witnesses before the Curran administration committee were either ex-convicts or disorderly house keepers, Mr. Buckner, in order to show that some at least of his witnesses were reputable citizens, asked them as they took the stand if they were ex-convicts or disorderly house keepers.

It does not appear that they resented these questions, but Mr. Watson does. He accordingly writes a letter threatening to remove Mr. Buckner. He had better not. His attitude in this inquiry has not been much to his credit. If he keeps on, this sensitive young man will enjoy as much public confidence as Mr. Gaynor's other sensitive young man.

It is a pity that the Mayor's sensitive young men are not sensitive about the city's honor as it is affected by the police partnership in the business of running brothels. With regard to that they are pachydermatous.

TRUE TAMMANY SPIRIT.

The mere fact that an urgent appeal was made to the Municipal Civil Service Commission yesterday to give temporary appointees an advantage in the forthcoming examinations for the Bureau of Fire Prevention is eloquent testimony to the spirit which Tammany inculcates toward the merit system.

Fire Commissioner Johnson was allowed some months ago to make seventy appointments to fill these places temporarily, pending the preparation of eligible lists, which were delayed through litigation far beyond the statutory term for temporary employment. Commissioner Johnson of course filled the places with Tammany henchmen, dividing them around among the Tammany sub-bosses, two to a district. Now these men have the impudence to ask that in the civil service examination

they shall receive credit on account of experience in the places which they have held by favor. They have an unavoidable advantage in an examination through their experience, for if they are at all competent they should know more about the work for which they are examined than the outsider. That is unfair and a reason for opposition to such temporary appointments. But not content with that, these Tammany pets demanded an arbitrary experience credit as a practical application of the rule that possession is nine points of the law.

The Civil Service Commission denied the application. In fact, the rule on the subject has been so long established by both state and municipal authority that it could not do otherwise. That anybody should have thought it could, and have started an organized movement to exact this favor for Tammany spoilsmen, is, however, significant. Not equality of opportunity, but opportunity for favoritism, is Tammany's definition of democracy.

"PEACE ON EARTH."

The recurrence of Christmas finds the angelic proclamation still unfulfilled. There is indeed peace throughout most of the world, but nowhere is it inviolable, while even where it most securely prevails preparations for potential war abound. Five nations are in an actual state of war, for the moment chiefly suspended in an armistice, but by no means assured against active resumption of the conflict. The present warring year has seen two wars and grave peril of others of still greater magnitude, and for the first time the award of the Nobel peace prize has been omitted because there was nobody deserving of it.

In view of such circumstances the facile sneer arises that the Christmas message is a failure and that Christianity has not brought peace upon the earth. That view of the case neglects, however, to take into consideration the fact that whatever tenuous influences are at work in the world proceed chiefly from Christianity. The Christian religion is conspicuously the peace-making religion. If it has not made peace for all, it has made nearly all the peace there is. There were in ancient Judaism doubtless some peaceful impulses, prophetic rather than actual. But these were almost immeasurably multiplied in Christianity. As for the other important religions of the world, where they were not positively belligerent, like Mahometanism, they were largely neutral on the subject. It was left for Christianity to be actively, positively, we might say aggressively, peace-making; and this it is in essence, though it has not always been so in the practice of its professors.

It is not too much, therefore, to claim for Christianity the greater part of the credit for whatever abatement there has been of strife among the nations and for whatever progress has been made toward the substitution of reason for battle. The substitution is not complete and universal, and may never be. But that does not mark Christianity as a failure, any more than the occasional commission of crimes and misdemeanors marks law as a failure or the continued prevalence of deadly diseases proves the uselessness of medicine and surgery. He would take a strangely distorted and inaccurate view who did not see that in respect of this one matter of war and peace the world has grown vastly better in the last hundred, not to say the last nineteen hundred, years. The truth is that the proclamation of peace on earth is being fulfilled in a much greater degree than many other proclamations have been which are deemed successful.

LAWS OF THE AIR.

The seizure by the French authorities of a German airship which was caught trespassing follows a series of similar incidents in indicating the increasing need of an international code of aerial law. Such a code seems to be scarcely less necessary than a code of admiralty law. In fact, it is in some respects even more necessary, particularly for the prevention of smuggling and for the protection of national defense works from spying. Of course, each nation, in the exercise of its natural police powers, may prescribe its own method of dealing with offenders. But it will greatly eliminate danger of friction to have a thorough international understanding on the principal points involved.

There can scarcely be any serious challenging of the right of a state to the ownership and control of the air above its territory, however difficult it may be at times to assert that control. Municipal law in nearly, if not quite all, civilized states recognizes ownership of air space above real estate to an unlimited altitude. No man can erect a building overhanging the land of his neighbor. Obviously, it would be stilling to assert that states have not similar ownership above their territorial areas. The suggestion that the air should be free after the analogy of the high seas is unacceptable, for really no such analogy exists. The relation of the high seas to any given country is radically different from that of the air above that country. The freedom of the seas ceases at the three mile limit, or at the point at which that freedom might impair the security and privacy of a state. But it is manifestly impossible to designate such a point or such a limit in aerial navigation. The use of the air, at no matter what height, potentially affects very seriously the interests of the land beneath.

Roman law recognized this fact, and sanctioned the maxim *cuius est solum, eius est usque ad cælum*, and that principle has been pretty generally maintained ever since it was formulated, though, of course, without any such appreciation of its utility as the recent development of flight has caused. At the time of the Code Napoleon, into which it was adopted, there may have been some thought of potential trespassing by balloons, which had then lately been invented, but the chief thought doubtless was the same that prevailed in classic and medieval times. Now that principle is embodied in the codes of many of the chief nations of Europe, Asia and America,

and there should be no insuperable difficulty in getting some universal international agreement which would be as binding as that concerning the high seas. Its existence would be a safeguard against unpleasant complications arising from the enforcement of national and municipal laws.

AN AGREEMENT IN SIGHT.

The public never understood the dispute between the Public Service Commission and the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company over interest charges on money borrowed for construction. The settlement reached is so technical that few will take the trouble to understand it. The Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company is said to have yielded; in fact, says itself that it has yielded. But the great gain to the city is not so much what the company may have sacrificed in accepting this compromise as the reaching of an agreement opening the way to the signing of the rapid transit contracts.

The Public Service Commission does right in protecting the city's interests wherever in its judgment they require protection, but the public cares little about details involving relatively small sums of money in so vast an undertaking. What interests it is to see the contract signed as soon as possible and all the uncertainty which a change of administration before the closing of contracts might make removed. This result seems to be now assured.

Whatever the yielding with regard to interest charges may amount to, the commission has won a substantial advantage for Brooklyn in obtaining the five-cent fare to Coney Island two years sooner than was expected. This is one of many concessions obtained in the course of the negotiations.

NO MORE NEED FAINT.

School children need no longer faint in classrooms while teachers and principals fear to open windows because of the disastrous effect upon the "ventilating system." At least, that is what Superintendent Maxwell's latest order seems to mean. Incredible as it may appear to many, this order implies that those in charge of the children in the schools are likely to know more about what the children need in the way of air to breathe than does the machine in the basement. Hereafter the principals and teachers will apparently be free to use their judgment, even if that machine doesn't like it and gets choked up when it encounters some real fresh air that has never been canned wandering around the school building.

In a word, if those in charge of schools have any sense, there is going to be ventilation instead of merely a ventilating system. It is a step in the right direction. It may even lead the authorities to inquire whether we have education now or only an educational system. When principals or teachers are trusted to open the windows of schools, may they not also be trusted to open the windows of a child's mind if they see them shut, even though the educational system works with closed mental windows?

ENCOURAGING WORKERS.

Announcements like that of the Public Service Corporation of New Jersey that hereafter it will pay its women employees a minimum of \$9 a week and that of the Pullman Company that it will advance the wages of its clerks from 6 to 12 per cent are peculiarly appropriate to the season. They may be regarded by ultra-radical agitators as mere temporizing with the "demands of labor," but it is only fair to admit that such actions by great corporations and the numerous insurance and retirement funds created for employees in recent years show a steadily growing sense of the responsibility of employers toward the employed.

The two cases in point illustrate this especially well. The clerk cannot join a labor union and by its collective bargaining power hope to improve his condition, though he is subject to the increased cost of living along with the skilled laborers who have obtained higher wages. This recognition of the fact that he needs more pay may prove the forerunner of a general betterment of the conditions of workers of his class. The case of the women workers is even more striking. There is an admission of the obligation of the employer to pay not merely "living wages," as the term is sometimes used, but enough to free the girls and women from the temptation to supplement their stipends by the wages of the streets.

A CLEAR DUTY.

At the hearing on the Tammany-amended Folks ordinance in relation to moving picture theatres Mayor Gaynor indicated that he favored the provisions compelling structural improvements, but questioned the legality of the censorship provision in the amendment on two points—the propriety of any effort to devolve upon the Board of Education duties outside its field, and the constitutionality of official censorship by the Board of Education or any other body. The committee appointed by the Mayor to investigate the subject of control of moving picture exhibitions, on whose report the Folks ordinance was based, has urged the Mayor to veto the censorship feature of the ordinance as passed, and upholds his right to do so under Section 40 of the city charter.

If the Mayor, having authority to do so, approves those features of the ordinance which he fully believes to be wise and vetoes the censorship provision, a great step toward improving conditions physical and moral in the moving picture world will have been taken and no harm done. The censorship issue should never have been tied up with the Folks ordinance. It is a question apart. However great the need of raising the moral tone of film exhibitions—and as to that the testimony is not all on one side—there is grave doubt whether an official censorship is a wise or effectual method. Censorship of anything beforehand is contrary to the spirit of American institutions. There is ample police power to protect the public from a vicious book, play or moving picture, and it is used from time to time in deference

to public opinion, the only real and effectual censor. The Mayor's duty in this instance seems clear.

The Weather Bureau evidently confused Christmas with the Fourth of March.

By all means remove Buckner and please the grafters.

It is no use. Mr. Waldo cannot build up an Ananias Club which will rival the original in the prestige conferred on members.

Christmas turkeys dropped a couple of cents in price—just after you bought yours.

Hoke Smith's daughter is reported to have lost \$5,000 worth of jewelry. But how did a plain, simple Democrat like Hoke Smith get enough cash into his buttnerut jeans to afford such lavish embellishment of the simple life?

This is happily the last Christmas season in which under the irrational provisions of the old parcels post system a New Yorker has been called upon to pay 33 1-3 per cent more postage for sending a package to Hoboken or Jersey City than to Chill, Japan or New Zealand.

Murphy never goes to dinners on Saturday night. That is the reason he did not meet Mr. Bryan at the Sulzer feast. Now let somebody try to bring them together on one of the other six days and learn "what is the properest day" to dine.

Commissioner Edwards and the street cleaners have to lose their Christmas holiday because of the snow. It will be a blue Christmas for them instead of a white one.

If you live in the Heights section of Brooklyn, and are awakened in the wee small hours of to-morrow by hearing this old-time Christmas hymn floating sweetly over the snow, do not fancy that you are living in England a hundred years ago. The Brooklyn Eagle.

That's right. You made a great mistake if you did, for that hymn was never heard in England or anywhere else a hundred years ago, or until Phillips Brooks wrote it within the memory of living men.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A youth from the country was paying his first visit to Manhattan and, accompanied by his uncle, a New York banker, went to the theatre. While waiting in the lobby before the performance the country boy flung back his coat and with hands in his pockets displayed a heavy gold watch chain. The uncle observed the act and resolved to teach him a lesson. While his attention was diverted the uncle slipped the watch and chain from the boy's vest and they entered the theatre. "What time is it?" he asked when they were seated. The country youth felt for his timepiece and found that it was gone. Allowing him to make a thorough search for it, the uncle told him he had taken it and read him a sharp lecture. "You are not in the country now, you know, where you can display valuables with impunity. You should be more careful. Let this be a lesson to you." So saying, he slipped his hand into his coat pocket where he had put the watch. To his utter dismay he found it was gone. And when he looked to see if his own was safe he found that also had taken wings.

Bibbs—Good thing Methusalem was a man and not a woman. Bibbs—Why? Bibbs—Well, if he had been a woman we would never have known how old he really was.—Philadelphia Record.

CHRISTMAS.

Say, This is Christmas Day. And it's a good thing. No matter how the cynics fling insinuations at it. And say they'd shed no tears if Christmas came but half a day in ninety-seven years. Of course it is discomfort. Of course it isn't quite. The sublimated essence. Of unalloyed delight. But, say, That stands for something better Than any of us are—A wakening of the spirit Of old Judea's Star. And there's a great big reason That once a year We should have a bright season Of Christmas cheer. Peace on earth; good will to men; Let cynics heed these words and then No longer will they bite and sting. But, like the children, laugh and sing. Oh, say, Take Christmas away. And you take from the world a blessing. You take from the hearts of men The spirit of cheer. Which one time a year Makes them like children again. So here's to good old Christmas. With its troubles and its cheer. And no matter what They say it is not. It's a mighty good thing every year. W. J. LAMPTON.

"They say it took the suffragette procession four hours to pass a given point," said Gosling. "That's nothing," said Gooseberry. "My wife got talking on suffrage the other day, and she didn't get past a given point for nine hours."—Harper's Weekly.

The graduation of Manly Rice from the hat rack in a St. Louis hotel to a place among the hotel proprietors of that city was spoken of in the presence of a New York hotel man, who said that he knew of many similar instances in New York if "walter" may be substituted for "that rack man." "One of the largest beer restaurants in the Yorkville district," he said, "is now owned by two men who for years were waiters in the same place. Some years ago the proprietor of a similar resort got into financial difficulties, and his place was taken over by a waiter who had some money and a rich friend. In a few years he amassed what he considered a fortune, sold out, went to visit his family in Germany and returned, determined to live on his income. He soon tired of inactivity and became a speculator. He is a waiter now in the place which he once owned."

"I got arrested again on account of that automobile of mine," remarked Mr. Chugling. "Exceeding the speed limit?" "No. On the contrary, it wouldn't matter and a policeman overheard what I said about it."—Washington Star.

"The absence from Vienna of the American Ambassador to Austria and the death of Vice-President Sherman would

have deprived the American residents of that city of their Thanksgiving Day gathering," says a letter from Vienna. "had not invitations been issued by Erhard Hammermann, best known here as the dancer. About one hundred guests, nearly all physicians and students, accepted the invitation. There were turkey and cranberries and sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie. American flag decorations, oratory in English, and even American drinks, and the entertainment had only one weak spot—the pumpkin pie. It was made according to a New England recipe, but fell far short of the mark. 'Why is it?' a native asked one of the Americans, 'that we, who are known as good cooks, cannot produce your beloved pie?' Mark Twain when he lived here was asked, said the American 'why Americans could not make Hungarian Strudel, and he said: "Because they don't know how," and his answer fits your question."

"I've come to tell you, Mrs. Malone, that your husband met with an accident."

"An' what is it, now?" wailed Mrs. Malone.

"He was overcome by the heat, mum."

"Overcome by the heat, was he?"

"How did it happen?"

"He fell into the furnace over at the foundry, mum."—The Bits.

MOTHERS BLAMED BY AUTOIST.

Accidents to Children Largely Due to Their Carelessness, He Says.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: When the newspapers almost every day have something new in condemnation of the "careless driver" of automobiles it seems to me that it is about time for something to be said about "careless mothers," who, I believe, are really more to blame than any one else for children being run down by automobiles.

Hardly a day passes but one hears of a child being killed by an automobile. I believe that in a very large majority of cases such accidents are unavoidable so far as the driver is concerned. The child darts in front of the automobile, and before even a chance to apply the brakes is possible he is under the wheels of the car.

I am a car owner myself, living on the upper West Side, and have had considerable experience in driving the city streets. I have escaped running over children hundreds of times by the closest of margins, and I consider myself a very careful driver.

It seems to me that the two principal duties of the motorist, for which he should be held responsible, are to drive carefully and to give adequate warning of his approach. My experience is that the so-called bull horn, which has been so universally used, has small success in gaining attention, either because people have become used to its sound or because they cannot hear it above the street noises. It seems to me that if some louder horn were used many accidents would be avoided.

New York, Dec. 20, 1912.

A PROTEST.

Why the Fuss About Child Labor Laws? Asks Correspondent.

To the Editor of The New York Tribune.

Sir: Your good paper of yesterday has the following news item in its columns: "To Picture Child Labor—Exhibit Prepared to Show Working Conditions." On another page of your paper I find the following: "Band of Eleven Boy Burglars—Two Young Prisoners Confess to Various Thefts." This state of affairs has been brought about by this child labor agitation. Some of the worst crimes are today being committed by children of tender age. The whole thing is but a class legislation, got up for the benefit of so-called labor leaders; in fact, all the laws in recent years have been for their benefit only. I am a man past seventy. Formerly children of ten, eleven or twelve years of age were doing much better when they were a work—more moral in every way. This did not prevent them from an education, as they could attend a night school.

This fuss about child labor laws ought to stop. Our State Labor Commission recently admitted that the law cannot be enforced, so why all this fuss? Let children of those ages, if they will not go to school, learn a trade or work in stores, or offices, and they may be a help to their parents. W. J. PROCTOR.

New York, Dec. 24, 1912.

PUT WOMAN ON RECORD.

"Until Then the World Will Be Ruled by Passion and Injustice," Says Man.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Mrs. Joseph Hewlett Willett writes in your columns of this morning that suffrage women are "women who advertise themselves and their doings constantly, every petty, personal detail, and who in general make themselves conspicuous in every possible personal manner"—women who "plan for a woman ruled world, with free love and free life as its creed."

From a man's viewpoint Mrs. Willett's description fits the anti-suffrage woman better than the suffragist—particularly where she speaks of "a woman ruled world and free love." Under the present anti-suffrage regime woman is monarch, and it is just this reason that Henry Ward Beecher gave for being a suffragist: "It is a question of man's rights," he said, "and because we want women to vote their must."

Men are getting tired of the make-believe of woman that she is the underling. We are beginning to see that not until we put her power on record, "where we can find it and indict it," as Wendell Phillips said, will this world be ruled by brains instead of by passions, prejudices and injustice.

GEORGE W. WEBSTER.

Boston, Dec. 14, 1912.

A LAW "TO INCREASE COST."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: One of the most glaring frauds I have seen in some time in regard to law for the protection of the consumer is the bill introduced in Congress by Mr. Oldfield, of Arkansas, requiring shoemakers and shoe dealers to stamp upon shoes a list of materials other than leather used in their construction.

Instead of being a law broadly designed to protect the consumer, it is a law evidently framed by certain selfish interests inside the trade itself. It ought to be called "a law to increase the cost of working people's shoes."

WALTER C. TAYLOR.

Editor "Boot and Shoe Recorder."

Boston, Dec. 24, 1912.

FOOL OR ANGEL.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Some people think that President-elect Wilson is not a strong enough man to attempt to make any radical changes in the tariff, or to enter upon any other bold quest. Such people need have no fear. Mr. Wilson will take a whack at things. He will do the best he can to prove the truth of the old saying:

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." BOOKS PLAIN EXPERIENCE.

New York, Dec. 23, 1912.

People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, Dec. 24.—For the first time within the memory of men about the White House a big Christmas tree stands in the Blue Room, a place heretofore held sacred to the reception of diplomats and the formal state functions given by the President. The pieces and nephews of Mrs. Taft, the children of Mrs. Thomas K. Laughlin and of William Collins Heron, are the ones chiefly interested in the beautiful tree, which is hung over with chains of electric lights; but Miss Taft and her brother, Robert Taft, are the moving spirits. They are the real Santa Clauses from whom no secrets are hidden so far, but for both of whom many surprises are in store to-morrow.

Mrs. Laughlin and her children are at the White House for the week. Mr. and Mrs. Heron live near by and will spend much of their time there.

Turkeys were given to-day to the 125 employees of the White House by the order of the President, and with each went a merry Christmas.

Christmas greetings will be exchanged by the President and Mrs. Taft, who are in Panama, with the household at the White House to-morrow morning.

THE CABINET.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, Dec. 24.—The Secretary of State and Mrs. Knox closed their Washington house this morning and went to their country place at Valley Forge to remain until just before New Year's Day, when they will give their annual diplomatic breakfast. They have had the Christmas tree which is to grace the great living room in their country house cut from their own place, and with them will be for Christmas week their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. James Tindie; their sons, Reed, Hugh and Philip Knox, with their wives and children.

The Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. MacVeagh have their son, James MacVeagh, of Chicago, with them, and are prepared to spend the day quietly at home. Mrs. MacVeagh secured gifts for her husband and son on her trip to Europe in the summer, and the men of the house have been busy all day delivering gifts to her friends.

The Secretary of War and Mrs. Stimson have their niece, Miss Gamble, with them, and while they will practically dine alone they will receive their friends during the afternoon.

The Attorney General and Mrs. Wickersham have a family party to enjoy the festivities of Christmas with them, and have a tree for their grandchildren, the children of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Akin. Several of the young friends of their daughter, Miss Constance Wickersham, will share the joys of the day with them.

The Postmaster General left here to-night for Boston and will celebrate Christmas day with the members of his family. He will return in the next few days.

The Secretary of the Navy has gone to North Carolina to join the members of a shooting club to which he belongs. His son, George von L. Meyer, Jr., went with him. Mrs. Meyer and the Misses Meyer are at their home in Scott Circle for the holidays.

The Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Fisher have been joined by Walter L. Fisher, Jr., and Arthur Fisher, their elder sons, who are students at Harvard. They will enjoy a big Christmas tree in the morning and will have a large family party at their Christmas dinner.

The Secretary of Agriculture and his daughter, Miss Flora Wilson, will have one of the merriest dinner parties for Christmas day, having asked twenty girls from boarding schools, daughters of the Secretary's old friends, to dine with them. A Christmas tree with favors will furnish the table decoration.

All that children mean in a household at Christmas time will be as usual. The best day of the year for the Secretary of Commerce and Labor and Mrs. Nagel. All their children are with them, and many of their children's friends will be present to see the big tree lighted. They will dine without other than casual guests to-morrow.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, Dec. 24.—The diplomatic corps in Washington affords one of the most interesting features of Christmas life here, and in all of the Central and American legations to-night there are gleaming Christmas lights and natively glowing, most realistically carried out. A few of the younger members of the corps have children who have trees to be enjoyed to-morrow, but in most of the foreign homes there will be little entertainment, aside from the dinner to which ambassadors and ministers invite the members of their respective staffs.

The Brazilian Ambassador and Madame da Gama went to New York to remain until Thursday.

The British Ambassador and Mrs. Bryce will have as a guest on January 2 Lady Aberdeen, who is coming to this country for a visit of some length.

At the Italian Embassy Giuseppe Catalini, counselor and chargé d'affaires, will entertain a few friends informally.

Dr. Paul Ritter, the Swiss Minister, who went abroad early in September, has been detained in his country and will not come to Washington until early in January.

Henri Martin, chargé d'affaires, will extend the greetings of his government to the President on New Year's Day.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, Dec. 24.—There are many large house parties being entertained for Christmas week, and several dances for the younger set will be given each night.

Brigadier General Aleshire and Mrs. Aleshire entertained to-night a hundred or more young folk, including Miss Taft and Robert Taft, at a dance for their debutante daughter, Miss Dorothy Aleshire. There were wreaths and festoons of Christmas greens, tied with broad satin ribbons or tulle, and berries and holly used all over the ballroom as the decoration. Red roses and poinsettias were used as a table decoration.

Preceding the dance at General Aleshire's home Mrs. George F. E. Harrison entertained at dinner for her daughter, Miss Lelia Harrison, a debutante of the season. The guests were Miss Taft, Robert Taft, Miss Martha Bowers, Miss Sophy Johnston, Miss Wilmer, Miss Frances Noyes, Miss Gladys Ingalls, the Misses Aleshire, Miss Margaret Treat, Lieutenant Aleshire, Thomas Bowers, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Butler, of New York; Mr. Riggs, Ross Harrison, George Harrison and William Harrison.

Miss Margaret Treat, of New York, is the guest of Brigadier General and Mrs. Aleshire for part of the Christmas holidays.

Miss Isabella Beavan, of London, is the guest of Mrs. Mackay-Smith for the Christmas holidays. Mrs. Beavan was hostess at a tea this afternoon for Miss Beth O'Rourke, of California, her house guest, and Miss Dorothy Shuey, a debutante of yesterday.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Christmas Day finds a large contingent of society out of town, scattered at Tuxedo, Lakewood, Ardley, Lenox and at the various country seats on Long Island, along the Hudson River Valley and the Westchester district, where gay house parties are being entertained for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt are spending Yuletide at Idle Hour, their place on Long Island; Dr. and Mrs. W. Seward Webb have their customary big family party at Shelburne, their place in Vermont; Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Vanderbilt are at Hyde Park, their country house on the Hudson; Mr. and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish have a house full of guests at Glencliff, their place at Garrison, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. George J. Gould are at Georgian Court, with their children and grandchildren; Mr. and Mrs. A. Holland Forbes are at their country house at Fairfield, Conn.; Mr. and Mrs.